November 2014 E-Newsletter

Join us for the 27th annual James Monroe Lecture

Dr. Denver Brunsman, associate professor of history at George Washington University, will present the 27th annual James Monroe Lecture on his recent book *The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World*.

A fundamental component of Britain's early success, naval impressment not only kept the Royal Navy afloat—it helped to make an empire. In total numbers, impressed seamen were second only to enslaved Africans as the largest group of forced laborers in the 18th century. Brunsman will discuss how the controversy over impressment ultimately contributed to the American Revolution and served as a leading cause of the War of 1812.

The talk will be followed by a reception and book signing.

7 p.m., Historic Dining Room at Seacobeck Hall, University of Mary Washington Fredericksburg campus. Free and open to the public. Parking is available in the UMW parking deck, along College Avenue, or in the lot at the corner of Thornton Street and College Avenue.

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Mon, 10 Nov: Annual James Monroe Lecture, "The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the 18th-century Atlantic World." 7 p.m., Historic Dining Room at Seacobeck, UMW, free.
Tickets on sale for "Deck the Halls!"

Tickets for "Deck the Halls 2014" are now on sale! This annual holiday decorating presentation by noted florist Jan Williams has become a mainstay of Fredericksburg's holiday season. Participants enter a raffle to win one of Jan's amazing creations. A breakfast of seasonal pastries will be served.

Tickets are $25/person or $22 for Friends of the James Monroe Museum. Call 540/654-1043 or e-mail auphaus@umw.edu to purchase yours today!

And from 3-5 p.m. that evening, we will host our annual James Monroe Museum Holiday Open House! Join us for hot cider and cookies and hear holiday music performed on the harp and on the Monroe family's Astor pianoforte.

"What's in Store" at the James Monroe Museum?

Even though it's November, we know that some of you like to get your holiday shopping done early! So, for you early birds, we have a few new holiday items in the Store. This year, in addition to the White House Historical Association Christmas ornaments ($22.95), we also have hand-painted Colonial drummer and fife player ornaments ($11.50 - pictured left). If you want to get a head start on sending out your holiday cards, we have just the thing: Virginia 12 Days of Christmas cards ($15.95/box of 15)! These light-hearted cards feature eight Virginia born presidents (including James Monroe of course), five golden hams and a cardinal in a dogwood tree. And don't forget the James Monroe Peace Medal chocolates in milk and dark chocolate ($4.00), which make perfect stocking stuffers!

If you’re looking for a fun and educational item for the youth in your life, check out our own James Monroe History Kit ($5.50)! The pre-packaged kit includes a scroll of the Monroe Doctrine, a feather quill pen with ink powder and ink bottle, a James Monroe Museum post card, and a James Monroe Museum pencil.
Keep an eye out in future newsletters for the newly redesigned James Monroe Museum t-shirt!

We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you in the Store!

**Field Trip for Museum Staff**

Ten Museum staff members spent Wednesday, October 29 visiting sites in Richmond, Virginia that have ties to James Monroe. The day started at Hollywood Cemetery, at the President's Circle. Monroe's remains were brought here in 1858 from New York, where they had lain since his death in 1831. The tomb also contains the graves of Elizabeth Kortright Monroe and Maria Hester Monroe Gouverneur. Hollywood Cemetery is famous for containing numerous other figures from Virginia history, including former US president John Tyler, Confederate president Jefferson Davis, author Ellen Glasgow, and many others.

Read the rest of this article.

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The James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library, located in historic downtown Fredericksburg, Virginia, is the largest repository in the country for artifacts and documents related to the fifth president of the United States. The museum was first opened in 1927 by Monroe descendants as a place to house their own personal collections, which had been handed down through generations of the family. Eventually, the museum and its extensive collections were turned over to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the museum is now administered by the University of Mary Washington.

The museum belongs to the American Association of Museums, the American Association for State and Local History, and the Virginia Association of Museums. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark.